

# POLICE SCOTLAND DOUBLES DIGITAL FORENSIC INVESTIGATION EFFICIENCY USING NUIX



## SUMMARY

Police Scotland evaluated its digital forensic technologies and processes against a workflow using Nuix Workstation and Nuix Investigate® in a series of drug supply cases and a multi-agency fraud case. Following a robust six-month proof of concept, Police Scotland found the Nuix workflow:

- Halved the overall time it took officers to complete a forensic analysis, with digital forensic processing time reduced by 60% and report preparation time reduced by 76%
- Increased the average number of cases completed per analyst by 75% and the average number of devices processed per analyst by 80%
- Allowed investigators to complete a case in months that would have taken years using the old methods.



## CHALLENGE

Police Scotland is responsible for policing across the whole of Scotland with 23,000 officers and staff across 13 local divisions and national specialist teams responsible for major crimes, public protection, organized crime, counter terrorism, intelligence, and safer communities.

Seeking to improve the efficiency of its digital forensics investigations, Police Scotland evaluated its legacy technologies and processes against a workflow using Nuix Workstation and Nuix Investigate in two case types that were typical of its workload:

- Multiple drugs supply cases that involved extracting, evaluating, and cross-referencing data from many seized mobile devices.
- An investigation into a major fraud operation, which had netted more than £4 million (US\$5.3 million). This multi-agency investigation had seized more than 100 electronic devices—mainly mobile devices and computers—resulting in approximately 14 million pieces of evidence.

The challenge facing the investigative teams was to efficiently process these devices and analyze data to secure evidence and make evidential links between suspects.



## SOLUTION

Police Scotland conducted a diligent and robust six-month proof of concept to assess Nuix’s capabilities against those of its existing workflow. In both cases, the officers involved had extensive experience of current digital forensic methods and were suitably qualified to highlight any benefits or pitfalls of the revised process.

“This type of work would normally be done manually by several members of staff in our department with the digital devices being sent to our digital forensic officers who are not full time in this area,” said a senior investigator involved in the fraud case. “It would take several months even to allocate followed by months of them loading the devices onto systems before coming back to investigators to then sift through hours of calls and other data. In an investigation this size, it could even take years.”

“Nuix has the ability to dramatically improve digital forensic capabilities in comparison to existing processes, subsequently reducing backlogs and enhancing service delivery.”



## RESULTS

The proof of concept demonstrated substantial improvements in the speed of forensic analysis and allowed both cases to be completed significantly faster using Nuix software.

“Nuix has the ability to dramatically improve digital forensic capabilities in comparison to existing processes, subsequently reducing backlogs and enhancing service delivery,” said the senior investigator. “It ensures inquiry officers and the Crown Prosecutor are presented with a comprehensive evidential product—including exculpatory evidence—in an efficient, clear and concise platform.”

### FORENSIC ANALYSIS SPEED DOUBLED

Following the proof of concept, Police Scotland recorded that overall it took officers half the time (51%) to complete a forensic analysis—including data extraction, processing, and report preparation—using Nuix than it had under the old process. Digital forensic processing time was reduced by 60% and report preparation time was reduced by 76%.

The average number of cases completed per analyst per week was 75% higher when using the Nuix software than with the old technology and workflow. The average number of devices processed per analyst per week increased 80% using Nuix.

It's worth noting that a team of just two digital forensic analysts were able to complete the many drugs supply investigations using Nuix software, compared to thirteen who used Police Scotland's existing tools and workflows.

“ This is, without doubt, more robust, more efficient and more cost-effective than anything ever used previously and is definitely the way forward.”

#### CASE COMPLETED IN MONTHS, NOT YEARS

The Nuix workflow led to a successful conclusion of the fraud investigation over several months, which the investigative team estimated would have taken years to complete using the old methods. Nuix's analytical tools and workflows helped the investigators find the vital pieces of evidence among the 14 million items extracted and establish lines of communication between the key suspects.

“Thanks to the use of Nuix, the dataset has been reduced to a level which allows us to pinpoint patterns of activity and direct communications between our Organised Crime Group suspects with further lines of enquiry being identified,” said the senior investigator. “It has allowed us to uncover substantial electronic evidence supporting our case. This is, without doubt, more robust, more efficient and more cost-effective than anything ever used previously and is definitely the way forward.”

#### ABOUT POLICE SCOTLAND

Police Scotland's purpose is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland, focusing on Keeping People Safe in line with our values of Integrity, Fairness and Respect. It is the second largest force in the UK after the Metropolitan Police with a workforce of 23,000 officers and staff working together for the people of Scotland.

Learn more about Nuix or  
contact us for a free demo  
[www.nuix.com/contact-us](http://www.nuix.com/contact-us)

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## nuix

Nuix ([www.nuix.com](http://www.nuix.com)) creates innovative software that empowers organizations to simply and quickly find the truth from any data in a digital world. We are a passionate and talented team, delighting our customers with software that transforms data into actionable intelligence and helps them overcome the challenges of litigation, investigation, governance, risk, and compliance.

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